Steps for terror threats

440. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to US study India faces threat of Mumbai re-run and would continue to face a serious jihadi threat from Pakistan based terrorist groups and India is not likely to reduce threat in the near future;

(b) whether studies identifies operational and tactical features of attack, evaluates the response of the Indian security forces and analyses the implications for India, Pakistan and USA;

(c) if so, the other main points of report;and

(d) whether Pakistan activities against India after Mumbai attack continues in the same manner and steps India has taken or proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. According to a study titled **"Terrorists Can Think Strategically: Lessons Learned From the Mumbai Attacks"** undertaken by the Rand Corporation, a US based think tank, India is vulnerable to jihadi terrorist threat from Pakistan based terrorist groups.

(b) Yes.

(c) The other main points of the study are that (i) terrorists will continue to focus on soft targets, including hotels and public surface transportation that offer high body counts and have iconic value; (ii) the Taliban, Al-Qaida, Laskar-e-Taiba and other terrorist groups find sanctuary in Pakistan's tribal areas and some of them have historically drawn on support from the Pakistani Government; (iii) it does not rule out a Mumbai type attack in the US and asserts that new outfits have signed on to Al Qaida's ideology of global terror and (iv) the fact that Mumbai attackers were able to paralyse a large city and commanded the attention of the world media for nearly three days would encourage similar operations in future.

(d) Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the security of its citizens and its territory.

Pakistan's involvement in Mumbai attack

441. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided the proofs of Pakistani involvement in Mumbai attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;and

(c) the action taken thereon by Government of Pakistan till date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) On 05 January 2009, the Government of Pakistan was given material linking the Mumbai attack of 26-29 November, 2008 to elements in Pakistan.

(c) Our High Commissioner in Pakistan was informed officially on 12th February 2009 of Pakistan's response. In their response, the Pakistan authorities have confirmed that elements in Pakistan were involved in the terrorist attack on Mumbai and informed us of actions taken by them in this regard. Pakistan has also sought further information and material relating to the investigation.

Negotiation with China over Mumbai attack

442. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had given a blank cheque to China, authorizing it to negotiate with India on its behalf to deal with the aftermath of Mumbai terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of China had discussed this matter with our Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports quoting Pakistan Foreign Minister as having conveyed to the visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. He Yafei in Islamabad on 29 December 2008 that Pakistan had given a blank cheque to China to go to India for negotiations to deal with the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. These reports have not been confirmed either by the Government of Pakistan or the Government of China.

Agreements regarding terrorism

†443. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed or proposes to sign any agreement with other countries in the wake of increasing terrorist attacks till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India is fully engaged with international efforts, both multilaterally and through bilateral mechanisms to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As part of multilateral process India participates in counter-terrorism activities of intergovernmental bodies such as SAARC,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.